

**INDIANA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 11, 2017

The Indiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to discuss civil rights concerns in the State.

Diane Clements-Boyd chaired the meeting and performed the roll call of Committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 3:00 PM- 4:15 PM EST.

Present:

1. Diane Clements-Boyd, Chair
2. Carlton Waterhouse, Vice Chair
3. Tammi Davis, Secretary
4. Robert Dion
5. Chris Douglas
6. James Haigh
7. Patti O'Callaghan
8. Ernesto Palomo

Absent:

1. Libby Cierzniak
2. Richard Garnett
3. Tony Kirkland
4. Bill McGill
5. Ellen Wu

Commission Staff Present:

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)

Members of the Public Present:

- Dawn Adams, Indiana Disability Rights

Approval of minutes:

- Patti O'Callaghan moved to approve the Committee meeting minutes from February 21, 2017 with the following amendments:
 - Correct the spelling of "Patty" to "Patti" on page 3
 - Correct the spelling of "Douglass" to "Douglas" on page 3
 - Add the language, "...though specific examples may be available now." to topic 4a. on page 3 (Patti)
- Chris Douglas seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Meeting Notes/ Decisions Made:

Civil Rights in Indiana: Topics of Future Study

- The Committee reviewed the following topics for potential civil rights study:
 - Concepts submitted in advance by Committee member Richard Garnett, not present (see attached):

- Solitary Confinement – suggestion to expand the topic to more broadly encompass race and the penal system. This could include both solitary confinement and the death penalty.
- Race and the death penalty (see solitary confinement note above)
- Civil asset forfeiture – note that the Michigan Advisory Committee recently completed a study of this topic.
- Additional topics discussed:
 - Sexual orientation/gender identity discrimination
 - Indiana’s 7th Circuit court in South Bend recently ruled that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is covered under federal protections against sex discrimination.
 - The USCCR recently completed a related study, so this topic may be “asked and answered.”
 - Despite case law, many individuals may not be aware they are covered.
 - Voting Rights
 - Discussion could include concerns regarding gerrymandering, and voter ID requirements.
 - This is a timely issue nationally that could gain broader traction.
 - This topic extends to many different civil rights concerns, because it impacts the ability of all social groups to be adequately represented in government.
 - Mass incarceration
 - This topic could more broadly cover the concepts submitted regarding the death penalty and solitary confinement.
 - Suggestion to consider the impact of deregulation on disparities in the penal system; laws haven’t caught up with the white collar crimes yet.
 - The discussion included consideration of whether to focus on mass incarceration more broadly or sentencing disparities more specifically.
 - Environmental Justice
 - Disparate impact of environmental contaminants in communities of color. Specifically, concern regarding levels of lead in the water and soil, and its impact on childhood development.
 - Consideration of the state’s failure to test all children for lead exposure as required under a grant the state receives from the CDC.
 - This is an ongoing topic that has been a problem for many years but has not gotten sufficient attention to be addressed.
- Additional project concepts (assignments):
 - Carlton Waterhouse will draft a project concept regarding environmental justice and lead contamination for Committee consideration and discussion in advance of the next meeting.
 - Tammi Davis and Diane Clements-Boyd will speak with Committee Member Richard Garnett with the aim of developing a single project

concept that would include more broadly related concerns regarding disparities in the penal system.

- Chris Douglas will draft a project concept related to voting rights.
- Chris Douglas and Robert Dion will update the Committee's 2015 project concept related to sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination (see attached).

Public Comment: At the conclusion of the meeting, all lines were opened for public comment. No public comment was received.

Next Steps:

- Next meeting is to take place in May 2017. USCCR staff will poll Committee members for availability.
- Committee members were invited to draft brief project concepts (1-2 paragraphs) identifying their preferred/top area of civil rights study for discussion at the next meeting. (See "assignments" above).
- Committee members were encouraged to submit their project concepts in advance of the May 2017 meeting for review and discussion. The Committee intends to end discussion and vote on their next topic of study during their June 2017 meeting (to be scheduled).

Meeting Adjourned: 4:15pm EST

Tammi Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Douglas seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Next Meeting: TBD